

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor  
in Philadelphia since 1869



Fall, 2023

HOLY FAMILY HOME  
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Philadelphia, PA  
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## HOLY FAMILY HOME

## A Hectic, Busy, Fulfilling Summer

### Preparing for the Move to the New Building



### OUR NEEDS

**Women's pull-up underwear - large and extra large sizes only**

**Salonpas with Lidocaine**

**Disinfecting wipes**

**Bottled water**

Usually the summer months are quiet and relaxing. For us, this summer was one of frenzy, excitement, and a flurry of activity as we prepared for the move into the new building. Even though we had a year to prepare, suddenly the completion of the construction was upon us and we scrambled to get things in place for the various moves. Residents and staff worked on downsizing their rooms and offices. The packing seemed endless and everywhere we turned there seemed to be more and more things to go through.

Not only did we have to move the 18 health care Residents to their new rooms on the 1st floor of the new building, but the Sisters had to move to their new convent on the 2nd floor. We also had to move the nursing offices to the new building and the administration offices and the Chapel had to

*We trust in God's divine providence to help us through your help & generosity.*

be relocated to temporary locations in the back of the house. With so many different moves having to occur simultaneously, well, you can imagine the chaos going on!

But with St. Joseph's intercession and tremendous help from our Sisters, staff and volunteers, we somehow managed to get everything in place and on time for the big moves.

We thank you all for your prayers and financial support for both our operating needs and for the new building. As we now begin phase 2 of our construction project, we ask for your continued prayers and help.



Richard and Angela Clark were honored at our St. Jeanne Jugan Gala, held on September 17. The Clarks are co-chairs of Holy Family Home's "Building to Servie in Love:" capital campaign.



The Board of St. Francis were also honorees at the Gala. Their members form an auxiliary group that fundraises for the needs of the Home. They provided wardrobes, dressers, and nightstands for the new health care rooms.

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Betty S. (right) loves the large, low windows with the pretty view of the patio. She and her daughter welcome Residents Ann B., Mac M., and Dorothy G. to a tour of her room.

## Residents Handle Change

Our Residents have gone through many changes in their lives. This move to the new building was yet another one for them to deal with. Rose A., our oldest Resident at age 102, “did not think I would make it to the new building; it felt too far in the future.” But she made it and had the privilege to cut the ribbon at the opening.

The Residents enjoyed watching the construction of the building and were surprised and amazed at how quickly the building went up. But before they knew it, moving day came on August 24. “I was worried I wouldn’t be as happy in the new building,” said Ann B., “but after moving in, I’ve been happy here ever since.” From her window she can see the new large generator, “It reminds me of a train and I remember the days when growing up I would take the train into town.”

Katherine B. was a little anxious about whether or not she’d be able to get all her things over to the new room. But many people helped and moving and seeing her new room made it a beautiful day and a positive experience. She loves her view: “I can see part of the patio and also the statue of Calvary through the large

windows. However, I do miss seeing the moon from my previous 4th floor room!”

Ann B. likes the new furniture (wardrobe, dresser and nightstand) that the Board of St. Francis provided to each Resident. “I like them very much,” she says. “My room is very comfortable and homelike.” Katherine B. is happy with the night light which turns on automatically when she walks into the bathroom. The therapy room is Jim M.’s favorite place.

## Grateful for St. Joseph’s Intercession

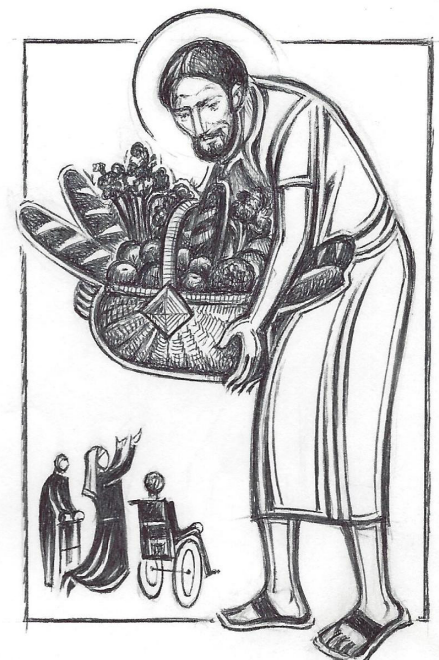
The Little Sisters of the Poor have a Mass offered monthly in every Home, in thanksgiving for St. Joseph watching over us. During this construction project St. Joseph has truly been interceding for us, keeping all of us safe.

*Most holy and kind Father, we thank you for having given us St. Joseph as our Protector. While honoring him each day, it is you whom we exalt, you whom we bless. For he was the just man whom you gave as spouse to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and to whom you entrusted the Holy Family. As a father he watched over your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through him with the Virgin Mary and all the Saints we glorify you for ever and ever. Amen.*

There are many things Fran M. likes about her new surrounding: the quiet atmosphere; how close everything is – you’re not far from anywhere you want to go - and having a bathroom with a walk-in shower. “I’m sure St. Jeanne Jugan must have been so pleased and joyful that over the years there have been three buildings on this same site.”

Now the apartment Residents are looking forward to the day when their new homes will be ready. Joe K. says, “I wonder what it’s going to be like – how different will it be from my current apartment?” Mary D. is sad that this current “beautiful home will soon be gone. (But) I was happy the Residents have this new beautiful home. I know the new apartments will be very nice – can’t wait!” Diane C. “found it a blessing that the transition seemed to go so smoothly and that the Residents’ needs were met.” Though she is “somewhat sad to see the old come down, I am looking forward to my new beginning.” For now, Dorothy G. says she is “thankful to have meals” in the new, beautiful, cozy dining room with the health center Residents. Bill J.’s thoughts: “hopeful, impressed, thankful.”

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*Residents eagerly and excitedly processed to the new building after Mass on August 17 for the blessing of the unit and for their first glimpse of the new health center. A week later they processed back to the new building for the ribbon cutting and to move in.*

## Hardworking Volunteers

There were so many aspects to our moving. First, we had to help the Residents sort through their belongings and downsize. Then we had to box up their items. In the new building we had to give the new furniture and the bedroom and bathroom surfaces a good cleaning. Finally, there was a lot of heavy lifting as we moved office furniture and boxes to temporary locations.

We were so fortunate to have volunteers come and help us. Despite the hard work, they kept faithfully showing up to lend a hand. We wondered what motivated them to give of their time. Mary Matraszek says, "It made our hearts happy to be involved with this move. No better way to give back to the Little Sisters for all they do. The love and care they have for the Residents shows in everything they do."

Barbara Sperandio, Sue Meyers and Frannie Mordell have been helping the Sisters since they started off as student volunteers back in the 70s. They say that "It felt wonderful being there and helping the Residents and Sisters. Brought back beautiful memories of our

days when we were there to open the Home in 1972. It is always a pleasure to be at the Home. It's an inspiration to be in the company of the Little Sisters."

Vince Rotoundi says, "When I was given the chance to help out the Sisters at Holy Family Home, I really didn't know what to expect, except to just give them a hand. I have to say it's been a warm and humbling experience to help them. They have a lot to do with little help. Not to take away from the original building but to see the world of difference the new one is providing for them has been great. I was glad to be part of the transition."

Anita DelQuadro reflects, "Being a Jeanne Jugan Associate provides me with an ongoing opportunity to be of service. I am so grateful to have had the chance to help organize some of the Residents' belongs who were unable to do so for themselves. There is no greater gift in life than to be able to help another person. It costs nothing, yet the rewards are plentiful."

To these and many other volunteers, we say, "Thank you! God bless you!"

## The Next Phase

Now that the new building is finished and occupied, what's next?

We have now already started phase 2, consisting of:

- Gutting part of an existing building and making 37 independent living apartments
- Complete renovation of the first floor reception area
- Building new office spaces and kitchen
- Creating a dining area for the apartment Residents
- Renovating the Chapel and basement
- Making a new front gate and parking lot
- Demolition of the fifth floor and part of an existing building

After seeing the updates in the new building, we can't wait for the phase 2 changes to become a reality! In order for that to happen we need your prayers and financial support. Please visit [www.BuildingtoServeinLove.org](http://www.BuildingtoServeinLove.org) to make a donation to our capital campaign. Our apartment Residents are anxiously waiting for their turn to move to new quarters - please help make their dreams come true.

We are grateful to all those who have already made gifts to our building project. We invite you to join them in helping our elderly poor Residents. Thank you.

**Resident Linda I. is all smiles on moving day as she watches the movers transport furniture and boxes to the new building. Visit [www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org) and read our blogs!**



## Gratitude to God and You



Dear Friends,

Every day I am humbled by your generosity. You enable our Residents to experience such happiness during their twilight years through your continued support. This mission requires the help of many. Let us rejoice together for all that we have accomplished in our Philadelphia home. Our Heavenly Father has blessed us to be able to build a beautiful new Health Care unit where our Residents are happy with their surroundings and comforts.

It was fascinating following the construction; breathtaking to discover how beautiful it is! Our hearts are full of gratitude to Divine Providence and our superiors and all the hard-working brains and brawn that produced such a wonderful new home. I experienced a new energy and enthusiasm during the preparations for the transfer from the old home to the new. All of us sisters found moving into our new convent “exciting.” We did it together! How can we express our gratitude to all of our Jeanne Jugan Associates, Staff, Volunteers, Friends, and Benefactors for their generous services to make this happen?

The family spirit continues to keep us close to one another. While change can be challenging, we know that our mother Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan is with us and we look to the future with hope. Our unwavering belief in Divine Providence and dependence on the generosity of friends will always be the guiding light of our mission. Thank you and may God bless you and your loved ones.

Gratefully,

*Mother Céline Thérèse, Lsp*

## Visit Our Blog!

There are many events going on in our Residents’ lives that we’d like to share with you. Sr. Kathleen is keeping our blog up-to-date and filled with photos. Tune in frequently to see what is happening at Holy Family Home!

The past few months the Residents have been involved in many discussions with the Sisters, keeping their minds active with new information and sharing their life experiences with the group. Just a sampling:

In March a group of Resident history buffs watched “Let’s Learn From the Past to Live the Gospel Joyfully Now,” about Catholic Philly.

For World Youth Day, the Residents followed the journey of young pilgrims who left from our Home in Queens and arrived at the Little Sisters’ Home in Lisbon. Tune in for more: [littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org/blog/](http://littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org/blog/)



*Mother General Maria visited Holy Family Home in April. She received a Mummies welcome from our staff and spent some time with the Residents.*

## Construction Begins

Here are some ways in which you can help us:

- Checks or credit card donations for our operating needs - utilities, food, payroll, medical supplies, maintenance and housekeeping supplies.
- Matching gifts – Your employer’s generous employee benefit can help double your gift to us!
- Memorials – In lieu of flowers, please have gifts made to Holy Family Home in memory or in honor of a relative or friend.
- United Way – Our SE PA UWay # is 00307.
- Planned gifts – Establish a will and leave a legacy gift to Holy Family Home, assuring that your assets are passed on to the people and causes cared about most, while also having tax benefits.
- Name tax-exempt Holy Family Home as the beneficiary of an IRA, pension plan, or life insurance policy, usually the most taxed assets.
- Set up charitable gift annuities or a charitable trust, which provide income payments to you during your lifetime and the residual to your beneficiaries and Holy Family Home.
- Pray for us, for the needs of our Residents and the Home, and for vocations to our Congregation.

We are most grateful for your generous help!



*Retired Bishop Michael Fitzpatrick celebrated Mass for the Home on August 30, the feast of St. Jeanne Jugan, and met with the Residents.*



*Residents watched a presentation on St. Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor and then competed in a crossword puzzle game.*